UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/270
S/1995/543
6 July 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Item 81 of the preliminary list*
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 6 July 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, a letter dated 5 July 1995 from His Excellency Mr. Vladislav Jovanović, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 81 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/50/50/Rev.1.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 5 July 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General

The decision of Germany to send its military personnel to the former Yugoslavia, i.e. the former Bosnia and Herzegovina, has caused understandable dismay, anxiety and serious concern in all sections of the Yugoslav public.

This decision, as you are well aware, is contrary to the rule according to which the troops of neighbouring countries and the former occupying countries are not to be engaged in the peace operation of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). This act would be yet another serious infringement of the rule coming in the wake of the previous decision of the United Nations to engage Turkish troops in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina. In two world wars, Germany, as an aggressor, ruthlessly occupied the territory of the former Yugoslavia. In the territory of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina its armed forces carried out particularly monstrous atrocities and destruction against Serbs. A new presence of German troops in these territories would represent an open provocation and a threat to the peace process as well as to the stability of the region, which should be unacceptable to the international community.

It is also recalled that Germany played an exceptionally negative role in the initial phase of the Yugoslav crisis when it openly aided and abetted the secessionist republics of Slovenia and Croatia and was the first country to recognize their independence. This it did contrary to the position of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, according to which those republics were to be recognized only after a successful completion of the Conference, i.e. after the overcoming of political questions caused by their unilateral secession. Germany acted in the same way in the case of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina and exerted powerful pressure on other countries in the direction of its premature recognition despite the fact that the early recognition of Slovenia and of Croatia led to negative developments in the former Yugoslavia.

That this decision is very questionable indeed is reflected also in the fact that it has been taken at a time when some international factors continue to display their open bias in favour of one and to the detriment of the other side and peace, as well as of the entire peace process.

We also consider that the augmentation of military personnel and potentials in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina, even under UNPROFOR auspices, is not conducive to the improvement of negotiation conditions and a peaceful and just solution of the crisis but, on the contrary, that it enhances the possibilities for new provocations by the Muslim side, aimed at provoking an international military intervention against the Serbs in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As is well known, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia supports the role of UNPROFOR as a force which will keep, not impose, peace, calls for its full safety and condemns every act of violence against the peace force irrespective of the side it may come from. We consider that an equal treatment and impartial

attitude towards all parties to the conflict are the main preconditions both for the safety of the peace force and for UNPROFOR's contribution to the peace process. We are convinced that the dispatch of the German contingent can only worsen the situation.

It would only greatly discredit the United Nations peace force in these territories and put into question its good intentions and role as an impartial and objective factor. I am therefore writing to you with a request that the above reasons explaining the damage of a possible German presence in the territory of the former Yugoslavia be taken into account during the final consideration of the engagement of German troops by the United Nations. There are other acceptable and more effective ways for Germany, if it really wishes to do so, to make a contribution to the peace process and to demonstrate its importance and influence in Europe.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ